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Message Text

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DRAFTED BY EUR/WE:WPKELLY:MJK
APPROVED BY EUR/WE - MR. BARBOUR
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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 191909

LIMDIS FOR POLAD ONLY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, PO

SUBJECT: AZORES INDEPENDENCE - U.S. POLICY

FOR SWANK FROM BARBOUR , EUR/WE

FOLLOWING IS A DRAFT MESSAGE CURRENTLY BEING WORKED OUT BETWEEN STATE AND DEFENSE RE SPECIFIC GUIDANCE TO AMCONSUL, PONTA DELGADA ANDCOMUSFORES IN THE EVENT OF STEPS TO SECURE AZOREAN INDEPENDENCE . YOUR COMMENTS WILL BE APPRECIATED. - -

1. THERE APPEARS TO BE GROWING SUPPORT IN THE AZORES FOR UNILATERAL DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE. IF SUCH A DECLARATION WERE MADE, EVERY USG ACTION TAKEN IN THE ISLANDS WOULD BE THE SUBJECT OF INTENSE SCRUTINY BY THE PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT, THE AZOREAN LIBERATION FRONT (FLA), THE INTERNATIONAL PRESS, ETC.

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2. OUR POLICY REGARDING THE FUTURE POLITICAL STATUS OF THE

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AZORES CONTINUES TO BE ONE OF STRICT NON-INVOLVEMENT. WE NEITHER ADVOCATE NOR OPPOSE AZOREAN INDEPENDENCE, REGARDING IT TO BE AN INTERNAL PORTUGUESE MATTER TO BE RESOLVED BETWEEN THE PEOPLE OF THE ISLANDS AND THE LISBON

GOVERNMENT. BECAUSE OF THIS LONG-STANDING POLICY AND THE INTENSE SCRUTINY OF OUR ACTIONS WHICH IS CERTAIN TO FOLLOW ANY UNILATERAL FLA MOVE TOWARD INDEPENDENCE, IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT US PERSONNEL IN THE AZORES AVOID ANY ACTIONS WHICH MIGHT BE INTERPRETED AS CONSTITUTING EITHER RECOGNITION OF AN INDEPENDENT AZOREAN GOVERNMENT OR SUPPORT FOR THE PORTUGUESE POSITION SHOULD LISBON DECIDE TO OPPOSE INDEPENDENCE.

3. UPON LEARNING THAT AN AZOREAN INDEPENDENCE MOVE WAS IN PROGRESS, THE FOLLOWING ACTIONS WILL BE TAKEN IMMEDIATELY IN WASHINGTON:

-- ALL IN-FLIGHT US MILITARY AIRCRAFT ENROUTE TO LAJES WILL BE ORDERED TO OVERFLY THE AZORES EXCEPT IN CASES OF AIRCRAFT EMERGENCY.

-- ALL US MILARY AIRCRAFT SCHEDULED TO USE LAJES OR ANY OTHER AZOREAN AIRFIELD WILL BE GIVEN ALTERNATE FLIGHT PLANS TO AVOID LANDING IN THE AZORES ISLANDS.

ALL US COMMERCIAL AND PRIVATE AIRCRAFT WILL BE INFORMED OF UNSETTLED POLITICAL CONDITIONS IN THE AZORES AND ADVISED NOT TO USE ANY AZOREAN AIRFIELDS UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.

-- A MARITIME ADVISORY NOTICE WILL BE TRANSMITTED TO ALL US FLAG VESSELS AND OPERATORS, INFORMING THEM OF UNSETTLED POLITICAL CONDITIONS IN THE AZORES AND ADVISING THEM TO POSTPONE PORT CALLS IN THE ISLANDS UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.

-- APUBLIC ADVISORY NOTICE WILL BE ISSUED TO ALL US CITIZEN TRAVELERS, INFORMING THEM OF UNSETTLED POLITICAL CONDITIONS IN THE AZORES AND ADVISING THEM NOT TO TRAVEL
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TO THE ISLANDS UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.

4. AT THE FIRST INDICATION OF INDEPENDENCE MOVES IN THE AZORES, COMUSFORAZ AND/OR AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA WILL INFORM STATE AND DEFENSE (BY HIGHEST PRECEDENCE MESSAGE) OF ALL AVAILABLE DETAILS AND REQUEST GUIDANCE ON WHETHER TO IMPLEMENT THE FOLLOWING CONTINGENCY INSTRUCTIONS;

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5. FOR COMUSFORAZ:

-- CONTROLLING ELEMENT IN US ACTION WILL BE FACT THAT
LAJES IS A PORTUGUESE BASE UNDER PORTUGUESE CONTROL

--MOVEMENT OF ALL NON-ESSENTIAL US PERSONNEL WILL BE
RESTRICTED AS SOON AS AN INDEPENDENCE ACTION BEGINS.
US PERSONNEL WHO ARE OFF BASE AT THAT TIME (BECAUSE THEY
RESIDE OFF BASE OR BECAUSE THEY ARE VISITING, SHOPPING,
TOURING, ETC.) WILL MAKE NO EFFORT TO RETURN TO LAJES
UNLESS INSTRUCTED TO DO SO, SINCE THE BASE ITSELF IS
LIKELY TO BE A PRINCIPAL FLA TARGET ON TERCEIRA ISLAND.
TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE, PERSONNEL RESIDING OFF BASE
SHOULD REMAIN IN QUARTERS. PERSONNEL ON BASE WILL BE
RESTRICTED TO US AREA OF LAJES OR TO QUARTERS, AT
COMUSFORAZ'S DISCRETION.

--BASE RADIO AND TV STATIONS WILL BROADCAST SPECIFIC
INSTRUCTIONS RE RESTRICTIONS ON MOVEMENTS, AVOIDANCE
OF CROWDS OR AREAS OF CONFLICT, AND STRICT POLICY OF
NON-INVOLVEMENT.

-- IF US FACILITIES OR PERSONNEL ARE ATTACKED, YOU WILL
TAKE ALL APPROPRIATE MEANS TO PROTECT THEM.

-- UNTIL INSTRUCTED TO THE CONTRARY, ALL US MILITARY
FLIGHTS ORIGINATING IN OR TRANSITING LAJES WILL BE
CANCELLED.

-- ALL US PERSONNEL WITHOUT EXCEPTION WILL STAY AWAY
FROM PORTUGUESE SIDE OF BASE AND AVOID ANY AREA ON OR
OFF BASE WHERE HOSTILITIES BETWEEN PORTUGUESE AND FLA
ARE OBSERVED OR WHERE PORTUGUESE NATIONALS CONGREGATE.
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-- ALL NON-ESSENTIAL US FACILITIES AT LAJES WILL BE CLOSED
IMMEDIATELY UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.

-- ALL US PERSONNEL (EXCEPTIONS ONLY BY SPECIFIC ORDERS
OF COMUSFORAZ WHO WILL SO INFORM STATE AND DEFENSE
OF HIS ACTIONS AND REASONS FOR THEM) WILL AVOID CONTACT
WITH EITHER THE FLA OR PORTUGUESE AUTHORITIES. IN THEIR
NECESSARY CONVERSATIONS WITH PORTUGUESE NATIONALS
(EMPLOYEES OF USFORAZ, HOUSEHOLD SERVANTS, LOCAL MERCHANTS
NEIGHBORS,ETC.), ALL US PERSONNEL WILL AVOID EXPRESSING
OPINIONS ON THE QUESTION OF AZOREAN INDEPENDENCE.

THE INTENT OF THE FOREGOING INSTRUCTIONS IS TO ASSURE THAT
US PERSONNEL AT LAJES REMAIN PUBLICLY IMPARTIAL AS REGARDS

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THE DELICATE INDEPENDENCE ISSUE, TO EFFECTIVELY BUT
TEMPORARILY CLOSE DOWN ALL NON-ESSENTIAL BASE OPERATIONS
UNDER COMUSFORAZ CONTROL, AND TO PREVENT POTENTIALLY
COMPROMISING SITUATIONS WHICH WOULD REQUIRE A US INVOVEMEN
SHOULD INDEPENDENCE BE ATTEMPTED BY THE FLA.

ALTHOUGH SPECIFIC CONTINGENCY INSTRUCTIONS MUST REMAIN
CONFIDENTIAL UNTIL IMPLEMENTED, YOU SHOULD TAKE IMMEDIATE
ACTION NOW TO INFORM ALL US PERSONNEL UNDER YOUR COMMAND
THAT THE US POLICY REGARDING THE FUTURE POLITICAL STATUS

OF THE AZORES IS ONE OF STRICT NON-INVOLVEMENT, THAT WE
REGARD THIS QUESTION TO BE AN INTERNAL PORTUGUESE MATTER,
AND THAT PERSONAL OPINIONS ABOUT THE RELATIVE MERITS
OF INDEPENDENCE OR CONTINUED ASSOCIATION WITH PORTUGAL
SHOULD NOT BE DISCUSSED WITH PORTUGUESE NATIONALS.

FOR PONTA DELGADA:

-- CONTINUE TO REITERATE TO US AND LOCAL EMPLOYEES THE
US POLICY OF NON-INVOLVEMENT IN THE QUESTION OF AZOREAN
INDEPENDENCE. IN PARTICULAR, CONSULATE LOCAL EMPLOYEES
SHOULD UNDERSTAND THAT -- WHILE THEY UNDOUBTEDLY HAVE
PERSONAL OPINIONS ON THE MERITS OF INDEPENDENCE --
ANY COMMENTS BY THEM ON THIS QUESTION MAY BE MISINTERPRE-
TED AS AN OFFICIAL US VIEWPOINT.
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-- IN THE EVENT OF FLA DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE,
TAKE WHATEVER STEPS YOU BELIEVE TO BE APPRORPRIATE
AND FEASIBLE TO ASSURE THE PROTECTION AND NON-INVOLVEMENT
OF OFFICIAL US PERSONNEL, US CITIZEN RESIDENTS AND TOURIST
THE CONSULATE OFFICES AND THE TWO OFFICIAL RESIDENCES.

-- IF PORTUGU
ESE AUTHORITIES LOSE EFFECTIVE CONTROL ON
SAO MIGUEL, REPORT ANY APPROACHES BY FLASH TELEGRAM.
SINCE SUCH ACTION COULD CONSTITUTE FORMAL RECOGNITION,
UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES SHOULD YOU ENGAGE IN ANY DIRECT,
OFFICIAL CONTACT WITH AN INDEPENDENT GOVERNMENT WITHOUT
SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE. KISSINGER

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